

March 1949

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CHAT



With Compliments

WINCHMORE HILL FOOTBALL CLUB

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Editorial

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Christmas has come and gone once again and with it the turn of the season. The Boxing Day matches produced mixed results. The 1st XI in their charity game against Denis Wade's University XI ran out winners by the odd goal of nine. An exciting and enjoyable game. The traditional Christmas Norsemen encounter was fulfilled by matches between the 2nd XI who lost 0—3 and the 5th XI who lost 5—4.

Now is the period for football stocktaking when we look tentatively at our league tables and reckon up the number of points we have won and the number we must still win in order to "be there" at the close of the season. Someone pointed out a few weeks ago: "If we win to-day we shall have the same number of points as we had at this time last year when we won the championship . . ." Well we did "win to-day" and it is true indeed that league positions after Christmas are often a pointer to end of the season chances, but let us not forget that points still to be won can never be counted as "in the bag." Not that I really think this is an error we shall be guilty of falling into, but it is as well to bear it in mind.

This leads me to another point not quite so clear cut and about which there may well be differences of opinion. It is this. Does a continued run of success tend to lessen our enjoyment of the game? Do the members of our 1st XI feel each time they go on the field that they must win and consequently has football for them become a little too serious a matter? Of course, we all like to win and we could hardly go on the field hoping to lose. Also it may well be that some of us or even the majority of us like this constant "cup-tie" atmosphere, that it gives added zest to each match. If it does I have no quarrel with that. What is a bad thing is that when we do lose we may tend to take it too much to heart.

The arrangements for the two extra teams playing at home each week have worked out better than we had hoped for as far as the dressing and bathing is concerned, although we still hope to improve the bathing if possible. The catering under the able management of Mesdames Williams, Ferraby and Welsford helped by their willing assistants Mrs. Bedford and Mrs. Randle has been first class, and to them we tender our sincerest thanks. Our thanks also go to Sid Martin who has done so well for us with his collecting box round the ground on Saturday afternoons.

Members are reminded not to forget to book for the Club Supper in the Pavilion on Friday, April 8th, if they have not already done so.

1ST XI REPORT

After a poor opening match the team is now settling down into a workmanlike side, and just hanging on to their position at the head of the league. Of the two newcomers to the side Norman Haslam has quickly settled down into one of the best halves in the league. A. Bailey improves with every match, and with a little more speed will be a menace to all right backs. Of the regulars Jack Pearl and Bill Brookes are the most improved with E. Wiseman still a tower of strength at centre-half.

Winchmore Hill 0, A.P. 2

Resulted in a well deserved win for A.P. by 2—0 due to the first match of the season feeling by the "Hill."

Winchmore Hill 3, Ealing 1

"Hill" showed much improved form when they defeated Ealing 3—1. Alex Lambert returned to the side to give a sound performance at right half and A. Bailey, promoted from the reserves, promises well. The Ealing goalkeeper gave a fine performance and was largely responsible for keeping the score down to three, which were scored by F. Bailey 2 and V. Haskell.

Winchmore Hill 2, Merton 0

A very evenly fought game with Les Lambert having a good game. The two goals were scored by V. Haskell.

Civil Service 0, Winchmore Hill 3

The "Hill" continued their winning way and showed more of that form which took them to the head of the Southern Amateur League last season when they defeated Civil Service at Chiswick by 3—0. Ron Carter was the pick of the forwards, whilst in defence Wiseman dominated the centre. The Service's mid-field play was most attractive, but their attack could not get through the "Hill" defence. Ron Carter scored two good goals and F. Bailey the other.

Barclays Bank 0, Winchmore Hill 1

The "Hill" had the better of a hard fought encounter with Barclays Bank, the score 1—0 accurately reflecting the run of the play. The "Hill" were without F. Bailey at centre-forward, Alex Lambert deputising and Hatch coming in at right half. The pace was fast throughout and the "Hill" took an early lead when Haskell scored from a well-timed pass from A. Lambert. The Bank had the better of the second half but the defence held out.

Winchmore Hill 2, Westminster Bank 1

A very evenly contested game with the "Hill" worthy winners with two goals scored by F. Bailey.

Midland Bank 1, Winchmore Hill 2

Beating Midland Bank the "Hill" took their rightful place at the head of the league. This match, famous for its disputed penalties, was keenly fought throughout. R. Carter, F. Bailey and Les Lambert were the pick of the forwards, while Gus Gowers and B. Brookes blotted out the Bank's right wing. The goals were scored by L. and A. Lambert.

Winchmore Hill 0, Barclays Bank 3

Barclays took their revenge when they defeated the "Hill" 3—0. A very good and fast game, and for a period in the first half the "Hill" did everything except score. Peters and Pearl were the pick of the "Hill."

Lloyds 2, Winchmore Hill 3

The "Hill" were worthy winners against Lloyds, although not at full strength. Norman Haslam made his debut in the side and played a very good game.

Merton 4, Winchmore Hill 2

The "Hill" struck a bad patch against Merton losing 4—2. Although handicapped by R. Carter being unavoidably delayed for half an hour, the "Hill" did well to hold Merton to one goal. After a reshuffle of the forwards the "Hill" did slightly better, but were eventually well beaten 4—2, F. Bailey and L. Lambert scoring for the "Hill."

Winchmore Hill 2, Catford 0

The "Hill" returned to form with a 2—0 win against Catford, who although playing some good football, found the "Hill" in good form and were beaten 2—0.

Winchmore Hill 3, Midland Bank 2

Against Midland Bank, their challengers for the league, the "Hill" completed the double. W. Brookes, F. Pearl and Gus Gowers were the pick of the "Hill," although all the side get special mention for a very good performance.

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2ND XI REPORT

The 2nd XI this season bears only a slight resemblance to last year's side because at present only five of the previous season's side remain. Sid Hasemore has been promoted from the 3rd team and has assumed captaincy, as Percy Attwood, last year's skipper, has dropped to the 3rd, to allow Fred McAdam, an up-and-coming centre-half, to take his rightful place in the defence. Other new faces are McMeikin, a new member, at left back, J. Williams at inside- or outside-right or centre-forward. J. Bryce also often plays inside-left and B. Thompson is this year a regular member normally at centre-forward.

This reorganised side, although unbeaten for the first eight matches, took some little time to settle down and positional changes have been numerous. The team certainly seem to play much better away from the eyes of home supporters and have played seven games away out of the ten played. The football at times has been very good, whilst at others it has been pitiful. The defence always trying to model itself on the "Male" doctrine has stopped some good forward line movements, but has also conceded some simple goals. The forwards have not been shooting enough from outside the 18-yard line, and many good approach movements have come to nothing. Nevertheless results are quite good. In the league six have been played, 4 won, 1 drawn, 1 lost; in the Junior Cup four matches played in three rounds, 3 won, 1 drawn, and now in the fourth round it is our old friends Letchworth at home.

October 2nd, 1948

Winchmore Hill 1, Lensbury Reserves 1

Away to Lensbury on the opening match of the season the Reserves drew an evenly fought game 1—1. Bryce, promoted from last year's 3rd XI, lost no time in making his presence felt, scoring the "Hill's" only goal.

October 9th, 1948

Winchmore Hill 2, London Transport Reserves 0

The Reserves registered a good win in the first round of the A.F.A. Junior Cup by defeating London Transport Reserves away by 2—0. Both goals were scored in the second half. B. Thompson, from a penalty, scored the "Hill's" first goal, and F. J. Fricker made the issue certain by scoring after F. Ward's shot had been deflected by a defender.

October 16th, 1948

Winchmore Hill 4, Ealing Association Reserves 2

Playing away for the third time in succession, the Reserves won against Ealing Association Reserves by 4—2. J. Williams had a good match, scoring a hat trick. The fourth goal was scored by Avent with a long shot.

October 23rd, 1948

Winchmore Hill 2, Civil Service Reserves 1

Playing their first home match of the season, the Reserves had a difficult task against Civil Service Reserves and were somewhat fortunate to secure the verdict by 2—1. The visitors' approach work was good, but lacked decision in front of goal. The "Hill" took the lead when a long shot by "Skipper" Hasemore struck the underside of the cross-bar, rebounded into play, and B. Thompson scored. The visitors were awarded a penalty soon afterwards, the shot rebounding from the bar and being kicked clear. The ball was returned immediately into the goalmouth and Civil Service equalised. A terrific drive from close range by Meyer restored the lead during the second half.

October 30th, 1948

Winchmore Hill 2, P.L.A. Reserves 2

The Reserves, away to P.L.A. Reserves in the A.F.A. Junior Cup, were soon in arrears when the home side secured two quick goals. Fighting back strongly the "Hill" secured the right to a replay with goals by McMeikin (penalty) and J. Williams.

November 6th, 1948

Winchmore Hill 3, Westminster Bank Res. 0

Continuing their winning run the Reserves were once again victors in an away match against Westminster Bank at Norbury. They won decisively by 3—0, Fricker, Haslam and Ward scoring.

November 13th, 1948

Winchmore Hill 4, P.L.A. Reserves 0

The Reserves were decisive winners in the replayed second Round tie of the A.F.A. Junior Cup, beating P.L.A. Reserves by 4—0. B. Thompson went through the middle to give the "Hill" an early lead. The visitors rallied and showed good understanding in midfield, but poor finishing spoiled many good moves. Haslam and A. Bailey combined well on the "Hill's" left to give the visitors' defence some anxious moments, but half-time arrived without further goals. The "Hill" attacked almost continuously in the second half. From a corner, taken from the right, Avent lobbed the ball into the goal-

mouth and J. Williams headed through. Soon afterwards the same player again headed through, this time from a corner taken by A. Bailey. For a time the visitors' goal had a charmed life and then Meyer, with a terrific shot from the edge of the penalty area, completed the scoring.

November 20th, 1948

Winchmore Hill 2, Borough Poly. Reserves 1

The Reserves, away to Borough Poly. Res., in the third Round of the A.F.A. Junior Cup, won 2—1, thus advancing a further stage in this competition. J. Williams scored both goals.

December 4th, 1948

Winchmore Hill 1, Catford Wanderers Reserves 2

After having their previous week's game cancelled owing to fog, the Reserves played Catford Wanderers Reserves at home and lost their unbeaten record to a strong side by 1—2.

The match was played at a fast pace, with Catford having the better of the midfield play although poor finishing marred some good movements. The visitors took the lead when their outside-left squared the ball across the "Hill's" goal and in attempting a first-time clearance the left back turned it into his own goal.

The "Hill" wasted several scoring opportunities and the second half was well advanced before they drew level, when a powerful shot was deflected into the net by a visiting defender. A defensive error let in the Catford outside-right to score the winning goal.

December 11th, 1948

Winchmore Hill 3, Barclays Bank Reserves 1

The Reserves, after being one down against Barclays Bank Reserves at Norbury, won well by 3—1, B. Thompson (2) and Hasemore scoring.

December 18th, 1948

Winchmore Hill 1, Letchworth Town Reserves 0

In an exciting 4th Round A.F.A. Junior Cup-tie, the "Hill" beat Letchworth Town Reserves by 1—0, thus avenging last year's defeat by the same team in the 3rd Round. The "Hill" opened strongly and soon had the visitors' defence in trouble with long passes to the wings and down the middle. After 15 minutes B. Thompson evaded the centre-half and when challenged by a back squared the ball to Fricker, who scored.

The visitors' team work was good, but MacAdam at centre-half and Avent and McMeikin, backs, were steady under pressure, and Kebbell in goal was in fine form. The "Hill" forwards were constantly seeking to increase their lead, but without success. During the last 20 minutes the visitors made determined efforts to get on terms, and in the closing stages of this period Kebbell brought off some fine saves to keep his charge intact.

3RD XI REPORT

By comparison with last season's record, the performances of the 3rd XI during the first two months of the current season are a little disappointing. Perhaps the greatest surprise was their defeat by Kew Association in the 2nd Round of the A.F.A. Minor Cup—an anti-climax for last year's finalists.

This was an away match, played in far from ideal conditions, in which the "Hill" had the lion's share of the game, but were beaten by the only goal scored near the end after a defensive misunderstanding. Bad luck, thirds, but there are no second chances in cup ties!

In Division I of the newly-formed 3rd XI section of the Southern Amateur League the latest news is that the "Hill" have obtained 9 points out of a possible 16. Perhaps not good enough for the League Championship, but there is every chance that the "Thirds" will finish the season well up the table, as they did last year.

The league programme opened badly with a 1—0 home defeat at the hands of Borough Polytechnic. The side was severely weakened by cry-offs and the calls of the 2nd XI, but even so the game should have been won comfortably, had not so many chances been missed.

Probably the best of the league victories was the 5—3 defeat of Catford Wanderers, never an easy side to beat. In this match the "Hill," though never in arrears, always had to fight hard to keep their lead, and the final score was one which gave considerable satisfaction.

Another clearcut win was at the expense of Ealing Association, who were beaten 3—0. Although Ealing did not provide such strong opposition as Catford, the margin of victory was a good one.

More recent victories are those against Crouch End Vampires and Old Stationers. In the former game, the "Hill" won by the odd goal of 5 after the Vampires had twice drawn level to make the half-time score 2—2. An evenly contested match with victory just deserved.

By far the most remarkable achievement to date is the away win against Old Stationers. An unfamiliar defence took some time to settle down, and after about 20 minutes the "Hill" were 3—1 down, with Jack Fricker injured and virtually a passenger. Nothing daunted, however, our lads kept trying and helped by a hat-trick from Ron Wickwar, advanced to a 5—3 lead, before the Old Boys broke through the defence again just before the end, making the final score 5—4.

The two sides which have proved the "Hill's" undoing have been Alexandra Park and Midland Bank, both unbeaten at the time of our meeting them. A.P. have been played twice, the away game being a 1—1 draw and the home game a 3—1 defeat. In the drawn game both goals came shortly before the final whistle. A.P. took the lead when their centre-forward just touched the ball at close range and a "Hill" defender narrowly lost the race to the goal line. The "Hill" were soon on terms from a neat header, and the result was a fair reflection of the play. In the home game A.P. were always faster on the ball in midfield, and although their third goal was undeniably lucky, there was no cause for complaint at the result.

Against Midland Bank, away, it was a tale of wasted opportunities. At the end of the game a fair comment made by the Bank's skipper was that they should have been 4 down at half-time. In actual fact there was no score at the interval, and during the second half, the Bank twice scored from breakaways, with the "Hill" defence badly at fault, trying to do the work of the forwards.

Turning to personalities, it should first be mentioned that this year's 3rd XI is much changed from that of last season. In fact, only four of last year's team are still playing regularly with the 3rd. Furthermore, team and positional changes have been more than usually prevalent, particularly in the defence. Unavoidable as this has been, it must have reflected to some extent in the match results, particularly against Borough Polytechnic and Kew Association.

It would be impossible to mention here all the players who have turned out for the side this season, for they must number about 25. Of the regulars, Ken Bain, in goal, has performed very soundly indeed. Percy Attwood at centre-half has been both solid and constructive, although he has recently shown a hitherto latent desire to join the goal-scorers. Several of the younger members of the side are showing considerable promise, notably David Williams, who at the age of 16 has displayed very fine ball control and football sense, together with stamina equal to heavy grounds. Jack Fricker at outside-left has scored several goals, and like wing-half Arthur Pemberton has consistently played good, constructive football. Two other prominent goal scorers are Johnny Potter, a neat and versatile forward, and Ron Wickwar, recently promoted from the 4th XI, and capably holding his place. Jimmy Bryce, when not in the 2nd XI, has put in much hard and skilful work at inside forward, but sometimes spoiled his efforts by hanging on to the ball rather too long. Jack Peacock, still in the R.A.F., has played two or three good games at full-back, and should be an asset to the side on his release, expected in January. Among the team's several utility men are Phil Manners, who has played as winger, half-back and full-back, and Don Ashby, now skipper, who in four successive games has played in goal, left-back, centre-half and right back. (Anyway, what's the use of being skipper if you can't play where you like?)

In conclusion, let it be said that there is no depression or lack of team spirit in the side, and there is still plenty of time for the "Thirds" to show what they can really do.

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Confidence

In a recent away match one of the "Hill's" players had to leave the field to attend to a pulled muscle about 15 minutes from the start. At this point the score was 1—1. On returning, not more than 10 minutes later, he asked the score and was told 3—1. The game progressed, and by midway through the second half the "Hill" had added three more goals. The injured player, who shall remain anonymous, received the ball in front of goal, but was pulled up (quite rightly) for offside. Casually he took the ball on and drove it into the empty net. On being accused by an opposing defender of wasting time he replied airily: "Oh, I've written you chaps off!"

Each side scored once more, and walking off the field our friend remarked to his fellows: "A good win, 7—2." It was some seconds before everyone realised that the thought had never occurred to him that two goals might have been scored **against** the "Hill" during his short absence from the field. The real score, of course, was only 5—4 in favour of the "Hill," but what confidence!



4TH XI REPORT

The first half of this season has shown a marked improvement in the fourth team and if this can be maintained (there is no reason why it shouldn't be) the club will at last have a 4th XI that will in the near future be playing its way to the top of its respective league.

There are two main faults which seem to impair the side's chances. They are firstly that so many scoring chances are frittered away and secondly that the defence invariably takes too long to settle down at the beginning of the game thus allowing the visitors to score that so vital goal. The first fault may be due to over-eagerness on the part of the forwards, but if they were to become a little steadier in front of goal the dividends paid would be surprising.

Among the players called upon to fill places in a higher team Pemberton, Bartley and Wickwar have given a good account of themselves. Three Scotsmen are among the most welcome additions to the 4th XI: Gilmour in goal is rapidly improving and Muir has the right idea in the forward line, although is inclined to do too much on his own to the detriment of his stamina. Jock Watson has proved that he has plenty of football still to come, and is as cool a player as one could wish to meet.

Pre-war member E. Watson has donned his boots after 10 years absence, and is still able to show the younger players a thing or two. Since the early part of the season he has claimed a regular place in the 3rd XI. This report could not be closed without mentioning Messrs. Bacon and Barker, both of whom are very keen and invaluable assets to the 4th XI.

Finally it can be said that a strong team spirit—the most essential factor in any sport—has been developed both on and off the field and everything certainly augurs well for the future.

October 2nd, 1948

Winchmore Hill 2, Borough Polytechnic 6

The 4th XI opened the season with an away game at Dulwich against Borough Polytechnic and on a hard, dry pitch were beaten by a better side 6—2.

Poly were one up with a fine shot straight from the kick-off, but for the rest of the first half there was no further score. Despite good work by the defence, the second half was all Poly. They scored three quick goals and the "Hill" replied with goals by Pickard and French. Shortly before the end Poly added two more to make the final score 6—2.

October 9th, 1948

Winchmore Hill 3, Crouch End Vampires 4

The 4th XI's first home fixture proved to be a hard fought game which the visitors won by the odd goal of seven. The "Vamps" secured an early lead of two goals which was reduced by Bacon shortly before half-time. Half way through the second half the "Hill" hit back with goals from Hays and Bacon respectively, but could not maintain the pressure, thus allowing the visitors to score two more goals to give them victory.

October 16th, 1948

Winchmore Hill 4, Ealing Association 2

This game gave the 4th XI their first league victory for a considerable time. Ealing took advantage of the "Hill's" inability to settle down and obtained a two-goal lead. A brilliant goal scored by Wilsher enlivened the "Hill" and they gradually took control of the game. Muir equalised shortly after half-time, and further goals from Chapman and D. R. Williams gave the "Hill" a well-deserved victory.

October 23rd, 1948

Winchmore Hill 1, Catford Wanderers 4

Starting one short and having very little luck the "Hill" were unfortunate to be three goals in arrears at half-time. A home defender reduced his side's lead and the "Hill" attacked strongly but "Dame Fortune" assisted the Catford custodian. Catford scored a fourth goal which made the final score 4—1 in their favour.

October 30th, 1948

Winchmore Hill 3, Carshalton 1

The "Hill" attacked right from the start and goals scored by Bacon and Pickard gave them a comfortable lead. The visitors fought back and were rewarded when their inside-left scored. After the interval Carshalton made determined efforts to score the equaliser, but the "Hill" defence held firm and a goal from Wickwar put the home team further ahead. A feature of the game was the perfect corner kicks taken by wingers Bacon and Wilsher from which two of the "Hill's" goals materialised.

November 6th, 1948

Winchmore Hill 2, Crouch End Vampires 2

During a brilliant opening period the "Hill" secured a two-goal lead. They failed to press home this advantage however and the "Vamps" equalised with two good goals. The second half did not produce the standard of football seen in the earlier part of the game, and neither side could score the necessary goal to give them victory.

November 13th, 1948

Winchmore Hill 2, Midland Bank 3

The game opened with the "Hill" forcing the play and with a little more care would have secured a comfortable lead. However the Bank scored first and held on to this lead until just after the interval when Wickwar equalised. The visitors regained the lead with two more goals, but the "Hill" retaliated with another goal from Wickwar and from this point until the final whistle attacked strongly. Towards the end of the game Wickwar had a third goal disallowed and the "Hill" were a little unfortunate to lose both points.

November 20th, 1948

Winchmore Hill 5, Old Latymerians 2

The "Hill," starting with nine men, were soon on the attack, and gave the home defence several anxious moments. In spite of this the "Old Lats" opened the scoring.

This lead was short-lived and Bartley equalised. The same player put the "Hill" ahead a few minutes later with another good goal. After the interval the home side equalised. This goal seemed to arouse the "Hill" and Muir put them ahead again. From this point the visitors took command of the game and Bartley completed a brilliant afternoon's work with two more goals.

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5TH XI REPORT

After a shaky start the newly-formed 5th XI has settled down into an extremely effective side. A 6—1 defeat at the hands of Trinity County Old Boys in the first match of the season on October 9th, later avenged by a 6—2 victory at home, may give perhaps a too strong impression of the team's progress, since the former match was played two men short. However, be that as it may, the 5th XI under the captaincy of John Spence aided and abetted by another old stager "Vee" Page has enjoyed a remarkably good season to date. After having won only one match out of the first five played, the 5th's have won all their remaining games up to January 15th except two. Of those two one was against the Norsemen on Boxing Day morning. This we would rather have won more than any other and brought the first defeat since November 6th. After leading by 3 goals to 1 the "Hill's" defence faltered badly on a frost-bound pitch and the Norsemen put on three goals to win by 4—3. This after "Vee" Page had scored a very good hat-trick for the "Hill."

The game against Borough Polytechnic at home when we lost 1—4 on October 23rd was avenged by a victory by the odd goal of five on Borough Polytechnic's ground on December 18th. This game had been looked forward to by all of us as we felt that with the improved form shown during the previous four weeks we had a good chance of winning against what was considered one of the strongest sides the 5th XI had encountered up to that time.

In the game against Alexandra Park 4th XI on October 30th at home the "Hill" lost a closely contested game by the odd goal of three. The blame to a certain extent must be taken by the inside forwards and the half-backs for allowing a gap in the centre of the field to be dominated by A.P. Jack Begent obliged by keeping goal in the absence of Sid Cooper, injured the previous week. He gave a safe display and could not be blamed for either of the two goals scored against the "Hill," one of which definitely savoured of off-side. However, we shall have a chance of gaining our revenge on February 5th when we once more entertain A.P. at Fords Grove.

Another game in which we came up against opposition which proved too strong for us was that against Kew Association on November 6th, when the visitors ran out worthy winners by 3 goals to nil. This was the only game to date in which the 5ths have failed to score. However, the "Hill" had their moments, and at one time French had the ball in the net but was, in my opinion, rightly judged to have handled and the goal was disallowed. We meet Kew again on January 29th.

Both games against Tansley have been won. The first, at home on November 13th, began the run of successes which ended with our defeat by Norsemen on Boxing Day. This game was fairly even, the "Hill" winning by 2 goals to nil. The return match on Tansley's ground on January 15th brought a goal-rush, the "Hill" winning by 9 goals to nil. The scorers on this hectic occasion were Barratt 4, Page 3 and Spence 2. A strong

"Hill" side had most of the play, the shooting being outstandingly good. The "Hill" used the right tactics, swinging the ball about which on a wet and slippery surface caught the Tansley defence on the wrong foot more than once. The result did much to restore our somewhat shattered pride at losing to Old Stationers the previous week by 5 goals to 4 after missing two penalties within a few minutes of each other. In the words of the referee afterwards (our old friend Jack Begent again) "I did what I could but a team that misses two penalties like that deserves to lose!"

The penalties apart it was bad defensive play which was chiefly responsible, an inability to clear our lines with anything like a strong kick on several occasions gave the Old Boys easy openings. A game best forgotten except for the lessons that may be learned from it. This gave Old Stationers their revenge for a defeat at Fords Grove by 4 goals to nil on December 11th.

Two games against Crouch End Vampires have ended in victories for the "Hill." Both were played at home, the first resulting in a win by 7—4, and the second by 4—2. Our old friend "Joe" Lines played for the "Vamps" in both games and skippered the side in the second game. He proved a tower of strength for the Crouch End side and a stumbling block for the "Hill's" attackers. The two games were marked by a tremendous difference in the playing conditions, the first game on December 4th being played in brilliant winter sunshine, and the second in foul weather on January 1st, a day of hailstones, hangovers and 'bus strikes.

To conclude let me say that I have thoroughly enjoyed playing for the 5th XI and am happy to skipper such a cheery and sociable crowd of fellows. Space does not permit of much more than a mention of their names, but of the new members there is "Jock" ("Short-pass") Watson, now a regular 4th XI man, Bernard Roberts of the Alex James "baggy pants," Paul Roberts (no relation) with the cheery grin, Gordon Littleford of the boundless enthusiasm, Cyril Madley whose politics (so he pretends) match the colour of his hair ("wait 'till the Party gets in!"), Don Smart, who drives a four-wheel car on three, Sid Lansbury, who misguidedly spends so much of his time in the 4ths, Fricker, equally at home at right or left half, Denis French, mourned for his departure to the 4th XI. Then there are those members who have seen other seasons with the club, including Sid the penalty-saver (Cooper), "Harold" Lloyd, Tony ("Am I late Johnny?") Chapman and "guest" players John Pickard, Ted Barratt, Howard Felton (just off the train on another "48" from the Army) and Uncle "Vee" Page and me.

On more occasions than not the football has reached a standard that I certainly never expected we should attain, and of the standard set in the bar afterwards neither "Vee" Page nor I have any complaints whatsoever. Excepting, of course, when "Vee" drinks my beer by mistake. Did I say by mistake?



PEN PORTRAITS

JIM FERRABY

Jim Ferraby hails from Kingston-upon-Hull where he made a cherubic appearance in the first year of the twentieth century. A studious, almost bookish lad, he was whisked off at eighteen for military service in World War I and in the Army of Occupation at Cologne. He returned to complete his indentures which specified that "fornication or adultery he shall not commit; taverns or alehouses he shall not use or frequent, unless

he be about his master's business; at dice, cards, tables, bowls, or any other unlawful game he shall not play," and this mediaeval asceticism was rewarded with the qualification of M.P.S. He came to London and after a while became pharmacist to Allen and Hanbury's for whom he has worked since 1925, first at Bethnal Green, and then at Ware after the September Blitz of 1940, which destroyed the London premises while our Jim was on fire-watching duty.

Jim Ferraby is already such an institution at Winchmore Hill that it is difficult to realise that in 1940 he had no connection with the Club though he had lived on its doorstep for the previous six years. It is equally difficult to appreciate that Jim's main winter sporting interests had been rugby when he was in the North, and that on coming South he had played hockey both for his firm and for Broxbourne, only forsaking hockey for matrimony in 1934. The muse of history is silent for the next few years, but Jim appears to have surfaced about 1941 when he became Bill Williams' wartime gift to the Club. This was at an epoch when friendships were more readily made and when even an old club was anxious to avail itself of new administrative talent. So in 1944 Jim undertook Press reports and since 1945 he has been Secretary, contributing in no small measure to the remarkable post-war success of the Football Club.

Jim's academic training fits him admirably for the post; his minutes are detailed and scrupulously accurate, his correspondence prompt, pertinent and courteous. He is, however, something more than an efficient recording angel; he sits upon every sub-committee and has so deep and wide a knowledge of Club personalities and politics that in his own modest way he is a formative but never a log-rolling influence. His integrity wins a hearing for his unadorned but clearly stated point of view.

It has been said that Jim still takes his pleasures rather sadly and still makes new friends rather slowly, but not so slowly nor so sadly as when he first came to Fords Grove. Jim has mellowed in our friendship and perhaps in this way Winchmore Hill has given some return for the very great work performed on its behalf.

It is impossible to conclude this tribute without speaking of Jim's equally good half, Meg. She helps in a negative way by permitting her husband to be frequently absent from home, but more positively by the typing and telephone duties which lighten the burden of Jim's office. Mr. and Mrs. Honorary Secretary are in this, as in all things, one and indivisible.

DON ASHBY

Donald William Ashby first saw the light of day on June 12th, 1924, and at a very early age was either kicking or hitting a ball about, in which he was aided and abetted by an indulgent uncle, endeavouring to teach the young idea, and he was soon showing signs of promise. He gained a scholarship to Woodhouse School, and in his second year was playing cricket and football for the second teams and it was not long before he was in both first teams, getting his school colours for both games. He was captain of both and also of his House Athletic Team. Whilst at school he played at outside-left, and on one occasion scored all five goals from that position. At cricket he showed all-round ability and once scored 55 not out against a strong team of Old Scholars. Whilst still at school and under 16 playing against St. Albans he took five of their wickets for 36. He also won the school half-mile and one mile running events and represented it at the White City. He passed the Schools Exam. with Matriculation and four distinctions.

Leaving school he played for local clubs. Cricket with Brunswick C.C., for which club he took 47 wickets and made three scores of over 50, and his football with Hillside Rangers in the Finchley League playing now at left-back.

In 1941 he joined Finchley C.C. and in his second year scored 756 runs for them and took 35 wickets. In season 1941/2 he joined W. H. F. C. as a left-back. After a season with the second team he gained a regular position with the first team until joining the Royal Air Force in April 1943. He was sent to Paignton for three months to train for a pilot and there blossomed forth as a walker. Persuaded by his P.T.I., he took part in six walking races there, and after finishing third in his first attempt at $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles, was never again beaten, his next five all being won and at distances from 2 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles. He was also selected to play cricket with the station team on two occasions, one being at the R.N. College, Dartmouth. Passing his initial training he had a short spell of flying and then proceeded to No. 1 British F.T. School at Terrell, Texas, U.S.A., where he graduated as pilot, getting his wings and commission in June, 1944, on his 20th birthday, returning to England in July as Pilot Officer.

On December 23rd, 1944, and now a Flying Officer he was flown to India, and there posted to 669 Squadron at Basal, where he soon found opportunities to display his versatility. It was not long before he was appointed Sports Officer and organised all kinds of sport and still found time to take part in most including cricket, soccer, hockey, and even trying his hand at rugby. Owing to the dearth of referees, he took that side of the game up and gained quite a reputation, being eventually appointed to referee both the semi-final and final of an Army Cup Competition.

He was now playing at centre-half for his squadron and skippering it, and it was as a centre-half he was selected for a district representative side in which game he fractured his nose which kept him out of the game for some weeks. He also played at left-half against a travelling professional team which included Ditchburn (Spurs), Harper and Harrison (Wolves). Leaving Basal and Murree he proceeded to Bangalore on a short course for Education Officer, and after passing this was posted to the School as Instructor, and in his spare time took up amateur theatricals, appearing in several plays. He also had some interesting cricket here, on one occasion playing for a team of Indians, being, except for one other, the only white amongst the 22. And we understand his winning hit was an event, he being almost carried off the field. Here also he was again chosen to play for the R.A.F. (Bangalore) team at right-back. His next move was to Kandi, Ceylon, where, a Flight Lieutenant now, he gained further kudos by reaching the R.A.F. Men's Singles Tennis Final. He reached England again in December, 1946, after a very eventful two years in India and Ceylon.

Finally demobbed in June, 1947, he took unto himself a wife that same month, and is now settling down in Civvie Street. He is studying hard for his I.M.T.A. Degree, and this has hindered his training, but he keeps himself fairly fit by playing table tennis, at which game he is very proficient. He is looking forward to playing his cricket with the "Hill" this coming season, and should have many years to carry on the good work.



GROUND DEVELOPMENT

In March last year, when the football club committee was making enquiries of the cricket club regarding an additional pitch, information was received through our representative on the management committee that, consequent upon the granting by Miss Paulin of a 35 years' lease, a ground development sub-committee was to be formed and the football club was invited to send two representatives; the Secretary and Mr. R. Gowers were appointed to serve.

The first meeting was held in April and in addition to the football representatives those serving on the sub-committee were: Messrs. S. S. Pryke, R. Vickery and G. Watson (cricket), Messrs. G. Roberts and R. Wilson (tennis), Miss Bedford and Miss Ellis (hockey), Messrs. R. Lister and F. G. James (Honorary Members) and Mr. J. Jupp (Ground Committee). Mr. T. A. J. Bennett (Hon. Sec. of the Cricket Club) explained why the committee had been formed and outlined the scope of its enquiries.

It was appropriate that Mr. Pryke, who was largely responsible for its formation, should be elected Chairman and Secretary of the Committee and under his guidance so cordial were the discussions that the work was completed in four meetings, the last being devoted to hearing the suggestions of Mr. A. G. Cooper (Bar), Mrs. Welsford and Mrs. Bennett (Canteen), and Mr. S. J. Garbett (Social), and in approving the draft report to the management committee. Mr. Geoffrey Watson's expert advice was extremely valuable and he is also responsible for the plans exhibited in the Pavilion Lounge.

The committee was able to recommend the maximum requirements of each Section of the Parent Club and the Football Club, as stated by the representatives at the first meeting which were as follows:—

Cricket: 3 cricket tables, 6 practice wickets and 1 concrete wicket.

Tennis: 4 hard courts, 8 grass courts and a tennis practice wall.

Football: 3 pitches.

Hockey: 1 pitch.

Bowls: 1 bowling green.

Golf: 1 pitch and putter course.

A study of the 1952 plan will indicate the order of priorities, and those scheduled for 1948/49 are well in hand. The temporary football pitch has been in use from the beginning of this season, work on the new hard court has started and structural alterations to the bar and the band platform are complete. The old tennis court terraces have been receiving attention throughout the winter and will probably be available as practice wickets in the summer. A grass court will be laid at right angles to the new hard court.

The building of a groundsman's cottage (the importance of which can scarcely be overestimated in view of the developments recommended) which had previously been decided by the cricket club management committee, was included in the list of priorities and scheduled for the summer of 1949, but this will of course be dependent upon the granting of licences, etc., by the appropriate authorities.

To accommodate the new football pitch in its permanent position, it will be necessary to move the 1st XI pitch much nearer the pavilion, and to achieve this it was decided to move the car park to a more convenient position in the S.E. corner of the ground. The whole of this work is scheduled for the winter of 1949/50.

In the winter of 1950/51 it is hoped to be able to proceed with the laying of a 6-rink bowling green approximately on the site until lately occupied by the Polygon cricket table, the laying of two additional grass tennis courts parallel to the drive and opposite the hard court, and the building of a verandah on the back of the pavilion. This latter feature will be welcomed particularly by the football members as providing the much desired shelter for their spectators.

Finally the winter of 1951/52 should see the completion of the programme by the laying out of a pitch and putter course on the rough ground by the New River, and the building of the tennis practice wall, to which will be laid a half court, adjacent to the bowling green.

From this time on the sub-committee recommended the progressive re-laying, as necessary, of parts of the cricket outfield, tennis courts and football pitches to improve levels.

It will be readily appreciated that circumstances may prevent the completion of the scheme according to schedule, but with the support of members of all sections the Club will undoubtedly become the best of its kind in North London.

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AT THE FOOT OF THE HILL

When, shortly after the beginning of the war, someone stole my football boots, that, I felt, was the end of my footballing days. But when, last September, I once more fetched up in this area the urge became too strong, so I cast around for a club that ran at least five elevens and bought myself another pair of boots, second-hand this time, I was taking no chances. That my steps were guided Hillwards was no mere coincidence, but was mainly due to my happy experiences in wartime when missing open goals for an A.A. Battery side thickly studded with Winchmore Hill players and captained, of course, by the excellent and ubiquitous Gunner Gowers.

So to Guv Welsford, who kindly explained the subscription system ("A guinea down and then 2s. a game—shouldn't cost you more than twenty-five bob for the season.") To Jim Ferraby, who produced forms and took the money. To Bill Williams, who showed me where the bar was.

In the fullness of time I found myself a member of the star-studded 5th XI, and it was amidst that happy blend of youth, age and fugitives from the rota that I began once more to enjoy my Saturdays. We did none too well at first, but who cared? At 5.30 each Saturday evening we told each other largely that this was what we really played football for, and what did the result matter anyway, the game's the thing, win or lose and thanks, John, that's my beer you're drinking. Truly a happy spirit. (It's a lie. It wasn't his beer—it was someone else's.—Editor.)

And then, gradually and not a little to our own secret satisfaction, we found we had settled down as a team and were beginning to win matches. Terms like "a run of success" began to be coupled with the 5th. Gratified, we held up our heads, began to shoot a line and to talk about what we'd do to the Norsemen (but that's a sad story). We ceased to cringe in corners and began to mix more freely with the pundits of the higher elevens. ("Hello, Alec, just scraped home again, I hear?") And it was with genuine regret that we occasionally bade farewell to certain of our members who, owing to a temporary loss of form, were banished to the 4th XI. Happily, in most cases their absence was short.

I began to feel that my own place in the 5th was becoming precarious and was just wishing there was a 6th when, by a happy chance, I found myself on the Selection Committee, and ceased to worry.

Thereupon another aspect of the Club's activities met my fascinated gaze. Bill behind the big book; Jim quoting A.F.A. rules like an encyclopaedia; Alec—never a dull moment—crashing across a tense discussion with hearty and sometimes profane irrelevance; the other Alec pursuing his line of argument—deprecating but dogged; Sid succinct in comment; Don, impassive, impartial; Tudor, growing restive as the 4th XI comes up for discussion; and so to the eagerly-awaited climax—the selection of the 5th XI (“now then, who's not on rota this week?”).

John said I was to call this “First Impressions.” All right, then, first impressions. What are they? Above all, the atmosphere of universal good humour which shows itself in so many ways—the genuine interest taken by everyone in the newest members; the pleasant discovery that everyone is interested, too, in the fortunes of the lower elevens; the good-tempered inquests and the lack of recrimination when the 1st XI meet on Wednesday evenings to give George Male a few hints—even George looks as if he enjoys himself. The luxury of creature-comforts; wallowing in hot baths (a bit cramped, possibly, but very welcome to one who used recently to play in the Lancashire Amateur League and think himself lucky to get a bucket of cold water. The pampered South!); the hundreds of sausages and dollops of mash so cheerfully dispensed by Mesdames Welsford, Williams and Ferraby; the happy discovery that the bar opens at five and has cigarettes on the shelves.

To sum up, I joined the Club a mere month or two ago. I feel I have been a member for years. Can I say more?

No?

Good.

“VEE” PAGE.

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THE “FOREIGNER.”

It happened, I think, shortly before Christmas. The “Hill” 4th XI were playing at home and “Jock” Watson, Glasgow's gift to Winchmore Hill, was at left back. Half-time came and the opposing team's outside right approached his skipper. “Skip,” he said, “they've got a b—— foreigner playing for them, I can't understand a word he says!”

The “foreigner?” None other than our old friend “Jock!”